

March 27, 2001

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FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Docket No. OON-1396 and Docket No. OON-1598

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to request that all genetically engineered foods be safety tested and environmental studies conducted before going to market and that all such foods be labeled as genetically engineered.

With regard to the first point, it is impossible to tell what allergic reactions and other problems are created when foods are genetically engineered. As a parent with children who suffer from food allergies, I am very careful about what my children eat. How can I be sure that the food my children eat is safe if it has been altered in ways Mother Nature never intended and it has not been tested to ensure it does not cause allergic reactions?

Which leads to the second point - that all genetically engineered food be labeled as genetically engineered and in what manner. Without this knowledge, it is impossible to purchase food that I know is safe for my children and will not cause some kind of negative reaction.

As one of the margarine commercials said so long ago, "It is not nice to fool Mother Nature." When creating genetically engineered foods, we are doing just that. And before these foods come to market, they should be tested for safety and to ensure they do not cause environmental harm. Further, such foods should be properly labeled so consumers can make informed decisions on what to feed their families. Please make labeling mandatory.

Sincerely,



Beth S. Carlson  
19632 Delphin Circle  
Eagle River, AK 99577

OON-1396

C 4430



Ms. Beth Carlson  
19632 Delphin Cir  
Eagle River AK 99577



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